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Carnforth Urban District Council

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF

HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1960

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CARNFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

——:o:——

Chairman of the Council :

R. Byram, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

E. Russell, Esq.

Members :

R. T. Barnard, Esq., M.B.E.

D. Bisbrown, Esq. (until March 1960).

W. H. Ellis, Esq.

W. C. Francis, Esq.

J. E. Roberts, Esq., J.P. (from May, 1960).

Mrs. M. Newsham (until March, 1960).

D. Carr, Esq.

P. N. Edsforth (from May, 1960).

Clerk of the Council :

A. Pearson, Esq., F.C.C.S., until April, 1960.
A. Haycock, Esq., D.M.A., from April 1960.

Medical Officer of Health :

R. W. Farquhar, B.Sc. (Agric.) M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

F. O. Waterhouse, Esq.

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Carnforth Urban District Council

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1960.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Carnforth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the Year 1960 on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of Carnforth Urban District.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1960 was 3,920, an increase of 20 on the previous year. At the 1951 census the figure was 3,388 so that the population of Carnforth has increased by 532 or 15.7% over the past nine years. During this period births have exceeded deaths by 258 and the remainder of the increase can therefore be attributed to the influx of new residents.

There were 80 registered live births during the year equivalent to an adjusted birth rate of 20.4 per 1,000 population, compared with an average rate of 19.8 for the preceding five years. The national birth rate in 1960 was 17.1 per 1,000 population. Deaths from all causes totalled 44, an increase of 13 over the previous year, giving an adjusted death rate of 12.5 per 1,000 population which may be compared with the rate of 11.5 for England and Wales.

For the sixth successive year there were no deaths from maternal causes. There was only one infant death, equivalent to an infant mortality rate of 12.5 per 1,000 live births, compared with an average rate of 31.6 over the previous five years. The national infant death rate in 1960 was 21.9 per 1,000 live births.

The general health of the community remained satisfactory during the year and there were few cases of infectious diseases reported.

In the last section of the report your Public Health Inspector has reported fully on the various environmental health services which play such an important part in maintaining and improving living and working conditions in the community.

Steady progress continues to be made in repairing and improving the older houses in Carnforth through the provision of modern facilities in accordance with the "standard" and "discretionary" grant procedure under the Housing Acts.

For some years your officers have been concerned about the unsatisfactory condition of the sewage disposal arrangements for the town, which results in crude sewage being discharged into the River Keer. It is essential in the interests of public health that the Council give serious consideration to a scheme to remedy these conditions.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the continued interest shown by the Council in all matters relating to Public Health.

Yours faithfully,

R. W. FARQUHAR,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres)	1,504
POPULATION (Census 1931)	3,139
„ (Census 1951)	3,388
„ (Registrar General's Estimate Mid/1960)	3,920
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951)	1,095
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1960)	1,337
RATEABLE VALUE	£45,811
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	£187

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS

The social conditions of the District are very satisfactory. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Railway and Agricultural Work.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS—1960

	Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	49	29	78
(Illegitimate)	1	1	2
TOTAL	50	30	80
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			20.4
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			20.4
STILL BIRTHS—No. Registered	1	1	2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)			24.4
DEATHS (All Causes) No. registered	21	23	44
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			11.2
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			12.5
DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SPECIFIED CAUSES :—			
Heart Disease (all forms)	6	8	14
Cancer (all forms)	5	3	8
Accidents (all forms)			Nil
Respiratory Tuberculosis			Nil
DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			Nil
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE	—	1	1
Total Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			12.5
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE	—	1	1
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			12.5
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE	—	1	1
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			12.5
STILL BIRTHS PLUS FIRST WEEK DEATHS	1	2	3
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births ...			36.6

TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1960

	M	F	Total
Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm of breast	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm of lung, etc.	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	—	—	—
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	2	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	8	13
Coronary disease, angina	4	7	11
Hypertension with heart diseases	1	—	1
Other heart diseases	1	1	2
Other circulatory diseases	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Bronchitis	3	—	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
Gastritis	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3	5
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
All other accidents	—	—	—
Suicide	—	—	—
	21	23	44

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1960 AND THE PERIOD 1955-59

	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1960	80	20.4	44	11.2	2	24.4	Nil	Nil	1	12.5	1	12.5
„ 1959	81	20.8	31	7.9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	37.0	3	37.0
„ 1958	72	18.6	44	11.4	1	13.7	Nil	Nil	1	13.9	1	13.9
„ 1957	93	24.2	46	11.9	1	10.6	Nil	Nil	3	32	1	11
„ 1956	66	17.1	32	8.3	1	15	Nil	Nil	4	61	2	30
„ 1955	71	18.6	46	12.1	1	14	Nil	Nil	1	14	1	14
Average 1955-59		19.8		10.3		10.7		Nil		31.6		21.2

Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.00)=20.4
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.11)=12.5

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

In sections C and D of the report full details will be found relating to infectious diseases and environmental health within the Carnforth Urban District, for which services the Council are directly responsible.

The present section is related to those health services which concern mainly the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than public health and the community. Divisional Health Committee No. 2 of the Lancashire County Council, on which committee your Council has one representative, is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the following services, available to the inhabitants of Carnforth as well as to those of neighbouring districts.

(1) Domiciliary Services.

For the benefit of residents in the area two district nurse/midwives are resident in Carnforth, others being available nearby at Yealand Redmayne and Bolton-le-Sands. Three health visitors, who are also trained nurses, are centred on the School Clinic in Market Street. Several Home Helps are resident in Carnforth and Warton.

(2) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

This service is closely correlated with the domiciliary midwifery, health visiting and domestic help services, by which means the mother can receive advice and care for herself and her child as well as help in the home during and after her confinement.

During 1960 the average attendance at the Carnforth child welfare centre was 52.72 children per weekly session.

(3) Combined School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre.

At 21 Market Street, Carnforth, in addition to the child welfare session on Tuesday afternoons (2—4 p.m.) a minor ailment clinic for school children is held on Friday mornings (9-30—11-30 a.m.). An eye clinic is held on alternate Wednesday mornings, and a dental clinic on each Thursday morning and afternoon. A clinic is held every Thursday afternoon at which expectant mothers attend for relaxation, exercises and the teaching of mothercraft.

(4) **Immunisation and Vaccination.**

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and vaccination against smallpox are free services, available either from the family doctor or through the school clinic. Since 1956 vaccination against poliomyelitis and tuberculosis have also been available to children in certain age groups.

(5) **Ambulance Service.**

The Carnforth area is served by ambulances based on the Lancaster and Morecambe stations.

(6) **Other Services.**

Certain other services are organised on a divisional basis, without allocation of staff to particular areas. Thus 3 mental health workers and one tuberculosis health visitor cover the whole division. The arrangements for sending persons recovering from illness to convalescent homes are made through the Divisional Health Office, Lancaster.

(7) **Welfare Services—National Assistance Act, 1948.**

The following welfare services are also administered by the Divisional Health Committee :—

(a) Residential Accommodation : For persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them accommodation is provided at Dolphinlee, The Laurels and Fair Elms at Lancaster ; at the Empress Hostel, Morecambe ; Moor Platt and The Hermitage at Caton.

(b) Temporary Accommodation : In case of urgent need, e.g. fire, flood or eviction, temporary shelter is provided by arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) Handicapped Persons : For persons who are blind, deaf, or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped, certain welfare services and facilities are made available, either through the agency of voluntary organisations or directly by the County Council.

(d) Homes for Disabled and/or Old Persons: There are seven homes of this nature in the division, all managed by voluntary/or private bodies. These are registered and inspected regularly by the divisional medical staff.

(8) **Laboratory Facilities.**

The bacteriological examination of milk, water and specimens in connection with infectious diseases is carried out by Dr. Robertson and his staff at the new Public Health Laboratory, Preston. Samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston. Analysis of food and drugs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.

(9) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

The following clinics are administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee :—

(a) Tuberculosis :—Chest Clinic, Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster.

(b) Venereal Diseases :—Special Treatment Centre, Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

(c) Deaf Aid Clinic :—A session for the provision of hearing aids is held at 21, Market Street, Carnforth, on the first Wednesday of each month.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1960

		Age Periods-Years								
Diseases	Cases	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-
Whooping Cough	4	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	5	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	15	1	1	2	6	4	—	1	—	—
Total Cases	24	2	2	4	11	4	—	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1960 there were no new cases of tuberculosis and no deaths from this disease were recorded.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Since 1948 only one case of diphtheria has been notified in Carnforth. The young mothers of to-day do not realise the danger of this disease but localised outbreaks still occur sporadically in this country. Despite the growing number of other immunisation and vaccination procedures, it is just as important now as it was 20 years ago that efforts be continued to ensure a high level of immunisation against diphtheria.

In the following table the numbers of Carnforth children immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus in the last four years are compared.

IMMUNISATION IN CARNFORTH — 1956—1960.

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation.

	Diphtheria			Whooping Cough			Tetanus		
Age Group	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total
1956	68	4	72	65	—	65	57	—	57
1957	75	4	79	72	—	72	71	—	71
1958	73	7	80	74	2	76	66	1	67
1959	75	6	81	76	3	79	72	3	75
1960	95	8	103	92	2	94	92	7	99

Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection.

	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Tetanus
Age Groups	All ages	All ages	All ages
1956	123	2	—
1957	70	12	2
1958	135	36	3
1959	141	19	5
1960	138	12	36

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water, abundant in quantity, is supplied from the Lancaster Corporation reservoir situated at Withnets, which has a capacity of 52 million gallons. It is chlorinated and filtered and bacteriological samples taken at various distribution points have been generally good on analysis.

During the year, special investigations into the chemical content of the water were made following alleged complaints of its unsuitability, but a series of samples showed it to be fit in all respects for domestic use with no abnormality of any chemical content.

With the exception of 5 private houses and 3 farm houses, all permanent dwellings within the area are connected to the public water supply. The exceptions above referred to have private supplies piped to the building in each case.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage of the whole area is by gravity. In general it is the "combined" system, though a "separate" system has been introduced to deal with a site of approximately 140 houses, whereby rainwater from roofs and roads is discharged to an open watercourse in order to avoid any additional loading of the Highfield and Kellet Road sewers.

The main portion of the town, which includes the area which has been used for post-war housing expansion, is sewered to a tank alongside the River Keer (a tidal stream) and after settling in this tank the effluent is subject to discharge on ebb tide. Two other sewage disposal plants deal with the remaining portion of the district (the Crag Bank area), each discharging the effluent into adjacent streams after sedimentation and filtration.

PROVISION OF WATER CLOSETS, ETC.

With the exception of seven premises, all dwellings (inclusive of farms) within the area have fresh water closets. Pail closets are provided in the seven cases without water closets.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council continue to tip at Cote Stones by agreement with the Lancaster Rural District Council and arrangements are very satisfactory to the Council.

A weekly collection of domestic refuse is made and trade refuse is collected from various premises. Approximately 1,700 bins per week are dealt with.

HOUSING.

Five houses have been built by private enterprise. There is very little activity within the area so far as housing development is concerned and it would appear that this form of development is taking place outside the Urban area, rather than within it.

The existing housing facilities are made up as follows :—

603 modern type
458 cottage type
286 parlour type.

Further progress in house improvements has been made during the year by owner-occupiers continuing to avail themselves of the "Standard" and "Discretionary" grants made to them by the Local Authority, 11 of the former and 1 of the latter having been granted.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

No. of premises inspected	86
Defects discovered	37
Defects remedied	37
Informal Notices served	36
Statutory Notices served	1

INSPECTION OF SHOPS.

Inspection of shop premises as far as the Council are concerned is carried out simultaneously with visits made under the Shops Acts on behalf of the Lancashire County Council. No serious contraventions of those parts of the Act administered by the Urban Authority have been found.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS AND FOOD PREMISES.

The three butchers in the area are obtaining carcase meat and offal from wholesale distributors outside Carnforth. It is inspected before despatch and as there are no local slaughter-houses within the area the problem of meat inspection at time of slaughter of animals does not arise.

Contact with the shops is, however, maintained, though there has been no occasion for the condemnation of any fresh or imported meat or offal during the year.

Small amounts of tinned foods, surrended by shopkeepers, have been dealt with.

No fish arriving in the area has had to be certified as unfit for consumption.

Further noticeable improvements have been made in making food premises more hygienic for their purpose and for the protection of food on display.

MILK SUPPLY.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949—

No. of distributors registered by the L.A. and operating from :—

(a) Dairies in the district	3
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies	4
(c) Premises outside the district	3

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949-54.

No. of dealers licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the L.A. during 1960 in respect of " Tuberculin Tested Milk "	3

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949-53.

No. of licences issued in respect of heat treated milk	0
No. of licences to retail distributors :—	
(a) Pasteurised	3
(b) Sterilised	Nil
Refusals or revocation of licences for designated milk	None
Particulars of structural alterations or improvements carried out to dairies during the year	None

Action taken by the L.A. in relation to samples taken within the district.

	No. of Samples	RESULTS Satisfactory	Un-Satisfactory	No Result
(a) Raw Milk :—				
1. Tuberculosis biological	27	27	Nil	Nil
2. Meth. Blue reductase	30	29	1	Nil
3. Brucellosis Ring Test	30	23	7	Nil
(b) Heat Treated Milk :—				
1. Phosphatase) 2. Meth. Blue reductase)	4	4	Nil	Nil
3. Turbidity	1	1	Nil	Nil

Results of Ministry Investigations ... ... Nil
No. of herds examined by veterinary inspectors ... ... Nil
No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938 ... ... Nil
No. of animals seized ... ... Nil
No. of cases reported negative where animals had been seized ... ... Nil
No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized ... ... Nil
Action taken under Regulation 19 of the M. and D. Regulations, 1949 ... ... None necessary
Action taken under Regulation 20 of the M. and D. Regulations, 1949 ... ... None necessary

ICE CREAM.

There are no premises in the district manufacturing ice cream by the heat treatment process and all premises registered for the sale of ice cream are satisfactory for the purpose.

FOOD POISONING.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning within the Urban District during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's area has been little affected by rats or mice and no notices have been required to enforce disinfestation.

The Sewers have shown themselves free on test baiting. The sewage disposal works are occasionally found infested, but they are treated when necessary and kept under control.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There are none in the area.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 22 in number and all are of a small type. No conditions have been found calling for action and no reports received of non-compliance with the Act.

Mayoh Press Limited, Carnforth.